

Promotion of local defence groups

†937. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that village defence groups are active in various States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government promote local defence groups in different ways;

(c) if so, the number of village defence groups active in various States in the country and the levels at which Government provide assistance to them;

(d) whether it is a fact that some leaders during their visits to Jammu and Kashmir had announced a prize to the village defence groups for killing terrorists at the rate of Rs. one lakh per terrorist; and

(e) Government's attitude with regard to encouragement given to the village defence groups by any political party?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government encourages the State Governments affected by terrorism, insurgency and naxalism, to promote local defence committees/village defence committees (VDCs).

(c) As per information available, in Assam there are 11298 village defence parties to assist the police. In Nagaland the number of village guards is 8232. The number of Village Defence Committees in Jammu and Kashmir is 3742. The members of these committees are local volunteers.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Police registered an FIR in Police Station, Nawabad, Jammu, against the concerned persons.

Bangladeshi Intruders

938. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that more than two crore Bangladeshi intruders are living in our country and are enjoying every right;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken against Bangladeshi intruders entering our country through Malda, Siliguri, Murshidabad, Dinazpur and North-East Region; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government, so far with the help of concerned State Governments, to identify the Bangladeshi intruders in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) According to available reports, Bangladeshi nationals have been using porous Indo-Bangladesh border to enter into India illegally. It is difficult to make a realistic estimate about the number of such illegal Bangladeshi immigrants because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population due to ethnic and linguistic similarities. However, there are reports that some of the illegal Bangladeshi migrants have managed to obtain ration cards, passports and voter identity cards, etc. The State Governments/UT Administrations are competent to deal with such cases, as and when detected, in accordance with the provisions of law.

(b) and (c) The State Governments/UT Administrations have been empowered under section 3(2) (c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals illegally staying in India. Administrative instructions are issued from time to time requesting the State Governments/UT Administrations to detect and deport illegal Bangladeshi migrants staying in the country.

Further, for the purpose of detection, prosecution and deportation of illegal migrants, the Government has implemented the Prevention of Infiltration of Foreigners (PIF) and Mobile Task Force (MTF) Schemes. In addition, the Government has taken various measures to check illegal infiltration. These measures, *inter-alia*, include round the clock surveillance of the borders by carrying out patrolling; upgradation of intelligence network and co-ordination with other intelligence agencies; erection of border fencing; riverine patrolling; and introduction of modern surveillance equipments including night vision devices.